



Community Supports
for people with
developmental disabilities

Residential Care Checklist

Information for Parents and Consumers

Choosing residential care

- ***Take your time.*** Choosing how and where you will live is important. The people that work where you will live also will help you with services you want and need.
- ***Shop around.*** Visit more than one residence and visit several times. Go back for another visit if you still are not sure.
- ***Be assertive.*** Ask all the questions you want to ask. Tell them what your hopes, needs, desires and wants are.
- ***Listen to your feelings.*** Be sure you feel good about the people and services available.

Before deciding, ask yourself:

- Is this the right place for me or should I keep shopping?
- Should I visit another day?
- Do I want to live here?

Qualifications, references, experiences

- The state has a list of rules that providers must follow. When providers follow the rules, they are certified or licensed.
- Ask them if the home is certified or licensed. Ask to see the last survey report by the state. If the home had problems, how were things worked out?

Some things to consider

- The staff can tell you what experiences and skills they have for working for you.
- The staff seems able to meet all your needs.
- The neighborhood seems to be a good one and you would feel safe there.
- This home will give you your own privacy. You may have friends and family over when you want.
- Can you come and go when you want?

- Ask if there are any house rules. After you learn the rules, can you live with those rules and be happy?
- The house is clean, well-heated and air-conditioned.
- You can talk to someone living there now or someone who used to live there.
- Will you have a room of your own or will you need to share a room with someone?
- You may want to have a pet in your room. Is that okay?
- How are meals planned? Ask to see the menus used. Would you be able to go to the kitchen and fix some things for yourself?
- The manager and staff make you feel comfortable.
- Be sure you understand everything about living there before you sign any papers.

Do they listen to you?

- Does the person talk directly to you during the interview and listen to your answers and concerns?
- Does the person give you time to ask and answer questions for yourself?
- If you take along a friend or family member to the meeting, does the manager spend more time talking to them than to you?

- Were you able to visit for a period of time and on several occasions? Were you able to talk with people who live in the home?

Important things to think about

- The manager and staff have worked at other places that you can contact.
- The manager talks about residents and staff in a good way. Everyone seems to really enjoy their job.
- The staff seem interested in you as an individual and will see you without first looking at your files.
- The bathrooms and other facilities are accessible and easy to use.
- The atmosphere at the residence is pleasing to you.

Notes

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